

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/982,839

Applicant(s)

YAMADA ET AL.

Examiner

Douglas M Menz

Art Unit

2824

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/9/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,7,13,17,20-22,30,31,33-37,39 and 41-45.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 December 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
**VANTHU NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel non-elected claims 5, 8-12, 15-16, 18-19, 23-39, 32, 38 and 40.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 5, 8-12, 15-16, 18-19, 23-39, 32, 38 and 40 directed to an invention non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 5, 8-12, 15-16, 18-19, 23-39, 32, 38 and 40 have been cancelled.

### ***Drawings***

The replacement drawing for Fig. 20 was received on 12/9/04. This drawing is acceptable.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-3, 7, 13, 17, 20-22, 30-31, 33-37, 39 and 41-45 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1-3, 7 and 41-42, there is no teaching or suggestion in the art of record disclosing a semiconductor device comprising a plurality of signal terminals of a circuit block, wherein the signal terminals are arranged in accordance with the limitations of claim 1 in combination. Therefore, independent claim 1 is deemed allowable along with its dependent claims 2-3, 7 and 41-42.

Regarding claims 13, 17, 20-22, 30-31 and 43-44, independent claim 13 discloses a semiconductor device with a plurality of circuit blocks which incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 13 is deemed allowable along with its dependent claims 17, 20-22, 30-31 and 43-44.

Regarding claims 33-37, 39 and 45, independent claim 33 discloses a semiconductor device with a plurality of memory circuits which incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 33 is deemed allowable along with its dependent claims 34-37, 39 and 45.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas M Menz whose telephone number is 571-272-1877. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on 571-272-1869. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DM

  
**VAN THU NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**